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10 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Central Intelligence

FROM :
Chairman, SIGINT Task Force

SUBJECT : NSA as an Independent SIGINT Agency

Lew Allen clearly stands between Scylla and Charybdis. On the one hand, he wants NSA to be responsive to the DCI as an independent agency. On the other hand, he is clearly unsure of what kind of cold water DOD (currently Ellsworth) could throw on the results of NSA-CIA negotiations.

I wonder if this is a point you could raise yourself with the DCI and suggest that Governor Carter's reorganization plans might entertain a move to establish NSA as a separate agency. I chatted a bit with John McMahon about this, and his current thinking goes along the same lines.

We believe NSA would welcome this enthusiastically. If you like, we could prepare some pros and cons for you to consider.

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